

TALBINGO PUBLIC SCHOOL

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SWIMMING

Our series of intensive swimming lessons has concluded today with a double lesson. Over the last 2 weeks all students have progressed very well, showing considerable improvement in their swimming ability.

At the Small School's Swimming Carnival at Tumbarumba last week, the students had the opportunity to put their skills to the test. We had some very pleasing results however, I am particularly happy with the enthusiastic way in which the students participated in the carnival and their wonderful behaviour during the day.

I would particularly like to thank the parents who have helped with transporting the students to and from Tumut and Tumbarumba for these activities, especially Mrs Harris who drove almost every day. Without this help our students simply wouldn't be able to enjoy these very important opportunities. Thank you.

Sincere thanks also to Mrs Harris, and the other parents, who helped to organise the students at the Swimming Carnival and marshal them for their events.



DIARY DATES

Week 5 - Beginning Monday, 20th February

Thursday "Explorers" Video Conference
Thursday-Friday Riverina Principal's Conference

Week 6 - Beginning Monday, 27th February

Friday "Explorers" Video Conference

Week 7 - Beginning Monday, 5th March

Thursday-Friday Small Schools Principal's Conference

Week 9 - Beginning Monday, 12th March

Tuesday-Wednesday Zoo Snooze/ Dragon Spectacular

Week 10 - Beginning Monday, 19th March

Thursday Small School's Athletics
Friday Small School's Cross Country

VIDEO CONFERENCE LESSONS

This year we will be having regular video conference lessons with several other small schools from our network and this term we will be studying Australian explorers as part of the HSIE curriculum. Talbingo students will be focusing on Bourke and Wills.

Teachers from the different schools have written a program for each of the 2012 school terms. Not only is this a terrific way to help the teachers' develop their skills in using video conferencing and other technology applications such as wikis, but it also helps to reduce the isolation often experienced by small schools and provides the students with more opportunities to get to know, and talk to, their peers in other schools.

HEALTHY KIDS: A COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE

Good visual perception helps children to take in visual information in their environment and make sense of it. This skill is involved in all tasks; for example, correctly forming letters of the alphabet, copying from the board and matching shoes / socks when dressing. To improve your child's visual perceptual skills use:

- Dot-to-dot pictures, mazes, spot the difference pictures and jigsaws.
- Card memory games.
- Show a picture with many familiar objects, cover it and see how many objects from the picture your child can recall.
- Paper folding, eg. windmills, planes.
- Copying sequences, eg. square, circle, triangle.
- Games that explore form & space physically, such as hopscotch.

The Platypus Project



This term we will be learning more about the platypus as part of a special project being led by Mr Keith Collins of the Riverina Environmental Education Centre.

As part of this project we will be travelling to Taronga Park Zoo in Sydney for some special activities and an exciting sleepover in the zoo.

This week we enjoyed a visit from Mr Collins who taught us about the habitat and diet of the platypus.

We learned that platypus live in creeks and rivers and are quite shy so you don't see them often. The platypus eats small water animals such as yabbies.

Their survival and habitat can be threatened by many things including water pollution but Mr Collins also taught us that platypus often get caught in yabby traps and can drown.



Looking after our teeth

On Tuesday, during our visit to the Library, we had a special talk from Dental Therapist, Melanie Piper, about how important it is to look after our teeth.

Melanie taught us about brushing our teeth properly and how fluoride can help to keep our teeth healthy and without any decay.

As part of a special program the Tumut Shire Council, Murrumbidgee Local Health District and the Centre for Oral Health Strategy are providing toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste to all residents of Talbingo.

Melanie gave all the students their new toothbrush and toothpaste during the talk.

